

Appendix E
Environmental Program for Horse Operations



Environmental Programs and Certifications: Guide Services (Including Horse Operations)

THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATIONS

Criteria:

- *Third-party, independent organizations verify adherence to program criteria.*
- *Entities meeting established criteria become certified.*
- *Initial inspection/review establishes certification.*
- *Follow-up communication or reporting required in most cases.*
- *Most certifications have costs, but not all.*

The Horse Environmental Awareness Program (HEAP) / Connecticut Horse Farm of Environmental Distinction Award



HEAP is a coalition of Federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals interested in educating Connecticut horse enthusiasts and farmers on Best Management Practices to protect the environment. This program is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Environmental Quality Incentive Program. To date, the program has produced two educational videos, available to Connecticut horse farmers.



The Connecticut Horse Farm of Environmental Distinction Award is a program that annually honors Connecticut horse owners who are especially effective at protecting soil and water resources while managing horses. The award recognizes those owners who take pride in being good stewards of the land and good neighbors to those who share common resources. Those farmers who apply will receive a visit from a panel of judges who review management practices for environmental protection. Winners will receive a plaque marked with the year in which the award was given. While there are currently no USDA programs in other states, the Connecticut program hopes to serve as a model to one day be applied to other states.

- Website: www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rc&d/km_heap-program.html
- Phone: 230/284-3663

Leave No Trace (LNT) – Master Educator Course and Trainer Course



LNT is a program that strives to educate people about the nature of their recreational impacts, as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts. The LNT program is focused specifically on human-powered (non-motorized) recreation. The Master Educator course is an extensive, five-day field course that costs \$650 – \$700 and is designed to train educators to practice and teach Leave No Trace skills and ethics. Trainer courses, taught by individual Master Educators, are an abbreviated version of the Master Educator course and cost \$5 – \$85, depending on whether food and accommodations/gear are provided. Trainer courses are generally two days in duration and focus less on the teaching component than Master Educator courses. While only Masters are able to offer Trainer courses, Trainers are able to offer workshops, seminars and other less formalized types of LNT outreach. For areas that are not located near any Master Educator or Trainer courses, LNT has developed the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers program. These Traveling Trainers will bring various types of trainings to interested parties, ranging from general training for guides and outfitter staff on LNT principles, to the Trainer Course described above. Master Educator and Trainer certification lasts for life; there is no recertification process.

- Website: www.lnt.org
- Phone: 1-800-332-4100 / 303/442-8222

Tread Lightly! Master Training and Trainer Course



Tread Lightly! is a nonprofit educational program, whose purpose is to educate all types of outdoor enthusiasts on how to respect and conserve natural resources. Through education, restoration and research, Tread Lightly! seeks to increase public awareness and encourage responsible outdoor practices so that the great outdoors will be accessible, open and well preserved for years to come. Similar to Leave No Trace (described above), Tread Lightly! offers two types of training: Master Training (an 8 hour Train-the Trainer Workshop that has been designed to provide a “crash course” on Tread Lightly! principles) and a Trainer Course (an overview of Tread Lightly! provided by a Master Trainer). Master Training certification lasts one year, during which time Master Trainers are required to teach one course, give two presentations, and report on these activities to Tread Lightly! If they meet these requirements, Master Trainers simply pay a renewal fee to retain their certification. Trainers are required to present twice throughout the year and report back to Tread Lightly! If they meet these requirements, Trainers can also simply pay a renewal fee to maintain certification.

- Website: www.treadlightly.org
- Phone: 1-800-966-9900

VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS

Criteria:

- *An official partnership between a program and a member.*
- *No cost to join program.*
- *Members can use program logo, in most cases.*
- *Reporting or follow-up communication is often required.*

No voluntary programs for guide services found at the time of this publication.

PAID MEMBERSHIPS

Criteria:

- *Costs are required for membership.*
- *Members have access to resources or information (including logo usage) that would otherwise not be available.*
- *Members typically don't have to report information on progress.*

Leave No Trace (LNT) Partnership



LNT is a program that strives to educate people about the nature of their recreational impacts, as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts. In addition to the Master educator and Trainer courses described above, LNT provides organizations an opportunity to partner with the program. Organizations that financially support LNT can achieve different levels of partnership, depending on donation amount. Designation of Patron, Principle Partner, and Introductory Partner are targeted at large corporations and fees start at \$25,000. However, guide and outfitter organizations can join as a retailer partner for \$150 per year. This fee includes use of the LNT logo and guidelines (verbatim), listing in the LNT newsletter, a discount on educational materials, a link to the organization's website from the LNT site, and a Traveling Training presentation (described above). For \$35/person, a retailer partner can also host a Trainer Course (also described above) on-site.

- Website: www.lnt.org
- Phone: 1-800-332-4100 / 303/442-8222

Tread Lightly! Partnership



As described above, Tread Lightly! is a nonprofit educational program, whose purpose is to educate all types of outdoor enthusiasts on how to respect and conserve natural resources. Through education, restoration and research, Tread Lightly! seeks to increase public awareness and encourage responsible outdoor practices so that the great outdoors will be accessible, open and well preserved for years to come. Trainers are required to present twice throughout the year and report back to Tread Lightly!. In return, they receive a plaque designating the partnership, use of the Tread Lightly! logo, a link to their organization from the Tread Lightly! website, brochures, and other benefits.

- Website: www.treadlightly.org
- Phone: 1-800-966-9900

Disclaimer: This document is intended as an educational tool summarizing some third party environmental certification programs, voluntary environmental partnerships, paid environmental membership organizations, and third party product certification organizations available to businesses; yet this document is not all-inclusive. Every effort has been made to ensure the information presented in this document is accurate. However, the content does not constitute National Park Service policy or guidance. Inclusion in this document is not an endorsement of a particular organization or product by the National Park Service.

THIRD-PARTY PRODUCT CERTIFICATIONS

Criteria:

- *Third party organizations develop criteria to designate products as environmentally preferable.*
- *Certifying organizations have no financial interest in products.*
- *Products meeting established criteria become certified.*
- *Environmentally preferable - products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. This comparison may consider raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance, or disposal of the product or service.*

Food Certifications: Fair Trade



Fair trade food is food that was grown and processed in a manner that ensures fair prices for the farmers and laborers, and contributes to building a more equitable and sustainable model of international trade. In the United States, fair trade certification is available for coffee, tea, and chocolate. TransFair USA is the only American organization that certifies fair trade foods, which are available from multiple venues.

- Website: www.transfairusa.org
- Phone: 510/663-5260

Food Certifications: Organic



USDA organic food is produced without using conventional pesticides, fertilizers made with synthetic ingredients or sewage sludge, bioengineering, or ionizing radiation. Organic meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy products come from animals that are given no antibiotics or growth hormones. Before a product can be labeled "organic," a government-approved certifier inspects the farm where the food is grown to make sure the farmer is following all the rules necessary to meet USDA organic standards. Companies that handle or process organic food before it reaches local supermarkets or restaurants must be as well.

- Website: www.ams.usda.gov/nop
- Phone: 202/720-3252

Food Certifications: Shade Grown Coffee



Shade-grown coffee is grown in biologically diverse habitat, primarily under the shade of larger trees. This method provides habitat for migratory birds and many other plants and animals. Most of today's coffee, by contrast, grows in monocultures that consume large amounts of land and resources, accelerating soil erosion and pollution. The two programs based in the US that certify shade grown coffee are: the Rainforest Alliance certification program, which works in partnership with a network of Latin American environmental organizations, and the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) criteria, whose "Bird Friendly" seal is also linked to organic certification.

- Website: www.rainforest-alliance.org/marketplace/eco-ok/index.html or nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Coffee/default.cfm
- Phone: 212/667-1900 or canopy@ra.org for the Rainforest Alliance, 202/673-4915 for SMBC if website is unavailable.

Weed Free Feed

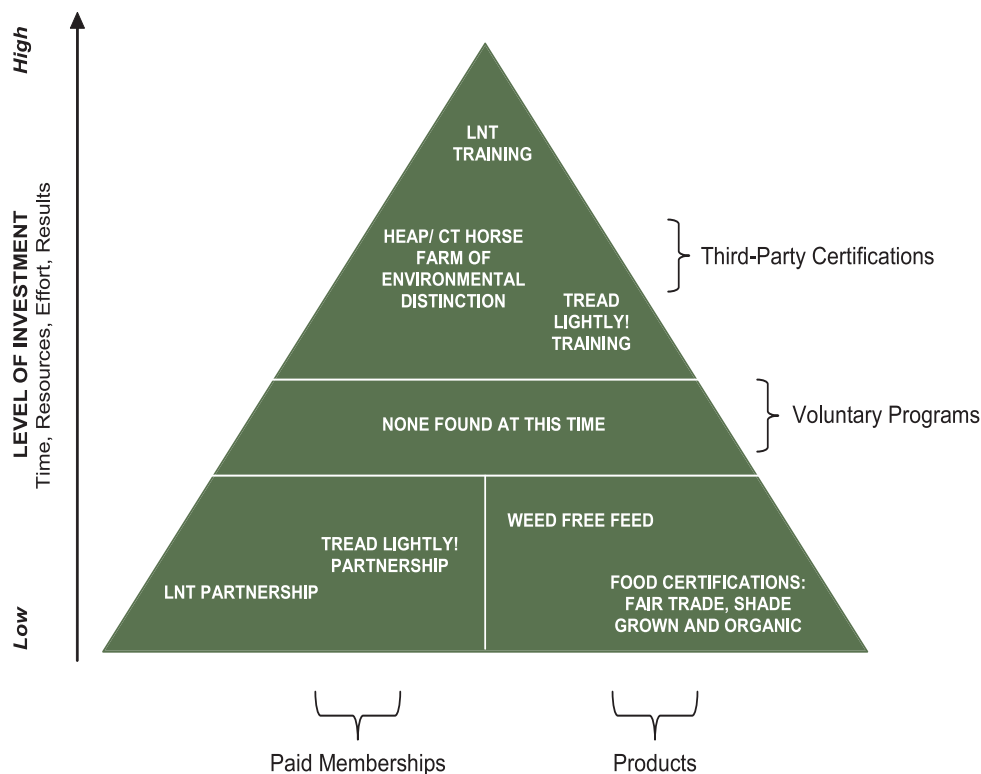


The Weed Free Feed certification program aims to prevent the spread of non-native weeds by designating horse feed as "weed free." By eating feed that does not contain weeds, horses will not introduce non-native species to areas in which they travel. Currently, County Agricultural Commissioners in the state of California are responsible for certification. Beginning in April 2004, all horses riding on National Park Service (NPS), National Forest Service (NFS), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in California have to be purged for 12 hours with California certified weed free feed before entering government property.

- Website: www.weedfreefeed.com
- Phone: 510/657-5239

Guide Services

Environmental Programs and Certifications Overview



For more information please contact the Concession Environmental Management Program by phone or email:

GreenLine Number: 303/987-6913

Email: NPS_GreenLine@nps.gov

Or visit the CoEMP website by clicking on “CoEMP” at www.concessions.nps.gov.

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